

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4139
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : MILI, KU, SA, TC, BA, ELAB

SUBJECT : FOREIGN "PIRACY" OF KUWAITI MILITARY PERSONNEL

REF : KUWAIT 0429

1. WE ARE AWARE OF NO CONCERTED BAHRAINI ATTEMPTS TO
CONVINCE ARABS SERVING IN THE KUWAITI (OR OTHER GULF)
MILITARY TO WORK WITH THE BAHRAIN DEFENCE FORCE. GIVEN
BAHRAIN'S FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS WE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO
LEARN OF SUCH ACTIONS. THERE ARE A FEW JORDANIAN OFFICERS
SECONDED TO THE BDF AND SEVERAL BRITISH AND JORDANIANS
ARE IN THE BAHRAIN POLICE. THESE ARE LONG-STANDING ARRANGE-
MENTS, SMALL IN NUMBER, AND HAVE NOT INCREASED RECENTLY.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOB HAS FOR SOME TIME TRIED TO
STEM THE FLOW OF YOUNG, SKILLED AND EDUCATED BAHRAINIS
(OFTEN WITH BDF TRAINING) OUT OF BAHRAIN AND INTO THE
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OF NEIGHBORING STATES. WE HAVE
FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF SEVERAL BAHRAINIS, BOTH OF ARAB
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AND PERSIAN ORIGIN, SERVING IN THE ABU DHABI FORCES. THERE
THEY ARE OFFERED HIGHER PAY AS WELL AS EASY ACCESS TO
TRAINING COURSES, USUALLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. WE KNOW
FROM THESE INDIVIDUALS THAT THEY ARE OFTEN APPROACHED BY THE
BDF WHEN THEY RETURN TO BAHRAIN FOR LEAVE, BUT TO THE BEST
OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, MOST OF THEM HAVE OPTED TO REMAIN
WITH THE ABU DHABI FORCE. WE WOULD GUESS THAT THEIR CHOICE

IS BASED BOTH ON THE PAY AND TRAINING ASPECTS NOTED ABOVE AS WELL AS THE "PRESTIGE" FACTOR. THE BDF LOCALLY ENJOYS NEITHER GENERAL SOCIAL PRESTIGE NOR THE REPUTATION AS A SERIOUS FIGHTING FORCE WITH MODERN WEAPONS.

3. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS MODEST FLOW OF MILITARY MANPOWER OUT OF BAHRAIN TO OTHER GULF STATES IS ONLY PART OF A MORE SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT OF THE YOUNG AND SKILLED (TEACHERS, WELDERS, FABRICATORS, ETC.) LOOKING FOR HIGHER PAY AND MORE GENEROUS "PERQS" THAN ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM LOCALLY. INTERESTINGLY, THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY MENTIONED TO US JAN. 25 THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ABU DHABI HAS ACTUALLY OPENED A "RECRUITING OFFICE" IN BAHRAIN, TARGETTED ON SKILLED EMPLOYEES OF THE OIL COMPANY (BAPCO).
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